

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074305

FOR LEDSKY

FOLLOWING REPEAT EC BRUSSELS 3207 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALL
EC CAPITALS ATHENS NICOSIA 31 MAR 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 3207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, CY

SUBJECT: EC-CYPRUS RELATIONS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 2281 (B) EC BRUSSELS 1001

REF A NOTED THAT AT ITS MARCH MEETING EC COUNCIL DECIDED
COMMUNITY WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT THIS SPRING
ON NEXT STAGE IN EC-CYPRUS RELATIONS--SCHEDULED TO TAKE
EFFECT JULY 1 WHEN CYPRUS' BRITISH COMMONWEALTH TRADE
PREFERENCES LAPSE--AND INSTRUCTED EC COMMISSION AND COREPER
TO PREPARE A COMMUNITY NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR COUNCIL TO
EXAMINE AT ITS APRIL 5 MEETING. ACCORDING TO EC COMMISSION DESK
OFFICER FOR CYPRUS IN DG I (EXTERNAL RELATIONS), THE COM-
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PAGE 02 STATE 074305

MISSION IS UNABLE TO RECOMMEND A MANDATE TO THE COUNCIL FOR ITS
CONSIDERATION ON APRIL 5 BECAUSE MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE
NOT DEVELOPED A COMMON COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.
SOME COUNTIES (EG, BELGIUM) SEEM TO AGREE THAT THE COMMUNITY
SHOULD PROCEED NOW TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE CYPRIOTS ON TRADE
MATTERS BUT DEFER DISCUSSIONS ON THE SPECIFICS OF A FINANCIAL
PROTOCOL UNTIL AFTER THERE ARE SIGNS OF REAL PROGRESS TOWARD A

POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS. (THE COMMUNITY HAS TENTATIVELY
EARMARKED 30 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT FOR CYPRUS). "OTHERS"
(READ THE ITALIANS) ARE AGAINST ANY CONCESSIONS ON AGRICULTURE
AND WINE TO CYPRUS OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY UNTIL THERE IS AN
OVERHAUL OF THE EC'S GRICULTURAL POLICY (EC BRUSSELS 2673).
COMMISSION OFFICIAL WORRIES THAT WITH THE CLOCK TICKING TOWARD
JQLY 1, IF THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT SOON COME UP WITH A COMMON
POSITION SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CYPRUS CAN COMMENCE, THERE
IS REAL DANGER THAT CYPRUS WILL LOSE COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCES
ON THAT DATE WITH NOTHING TO REPLACE THEM. HQ OPINED THAT IF
THE CURRENT INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA ON THE CYPRUS
POLITICAL PROBLEM ARE CONSTRUCTIVE, THIS MIGHT HAVE THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF EASING SOME MEMBER STATES' "POLITICAL
DOUBTS" ABOUT CYPRUS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO WORK OUT A COMMUNITY
NEGOTIATING MANDATE . HINTON
UNQUOTE VANCE

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